

## Frederick Alldis Eastaugh A.R.S.M.

Brett Radcliffe, our club archivist, has been researching Professor Frederick Alldis Eastaugh for many years. When Brett first starting looking into the club's history back in the 1980's the good Professor's name was like a spirit. It kept cropping up here and there, but there was never enough detail for the real Frederick Eastaugh to be pinned down. As more and more archive boxes were opened and more and more old newspapers/diaries read, the true story of this mystery man from 100 years ago began to appear, and is set out below.

Brett has now pieced together the shadows, chimeras and ghostly references he has found to date, and is now convinced that neither SUHC nor SHA nor even HNSW would exist without the wonderful Professor Eastaugh's drive and influence. Not only did he help organise hockey in Sydney in 1907, and help start our club, but he also helped the sport survive through WW1 (1914-18) and the Great Depression. All the hockey clubs from Sydney's early days except SUHC faded or folded in that time, but news ones were able to emerge. Professor Eastaugh is to be thanked for not only helping establish hockey in NSW, and but also for helping men's and women's hockey to survive.

His full story may, however, never be known. We simply did not keep enough records to tell us all we should know about Professor Eastaugh and the many other unsung heroes who helped found our club and sport. Our own neglect may forever impair our knowledge of our own heritage.

### Who was Frederick Eastaugh?

Frederick Alldis Eastaugh was born in England on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1882 and died in England on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1969. He was educated at the Enfield Grammar School and the Royal School of Mines in London and then appointed to be assistant lecturer in Mining and Metallurgy at Sydney University. He arrived in Sydney just prior to the commencement of academic studies on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1907. From this starting point, he moved to be Assistant Professor, Professor and finally Emeritus Professor just prior to retirement in 1947.

He married Elizabeth Muriel Grace Nicholson and lived primarily in Hunters Hill Sydney. They had three children, Edward John (b. 1912), Betty (b.1914) and Helen (b.1921).

His son Edward attended Sydney Grammar School and then studied Medicine at Sydney University. At university he played in SUHC's 1<sup>st</sup> grade team, and for its intervarsity team. He was also prominent in the University rowing and athletic clubs Unfortunately in 1935 he contracted pneumonia during an influenza epidemic in Sydney and died after a short illness. At the time of his death he was on the committees for both SUHC and the NSWHA. A newspaper article at the time requested that all players from all hockey clubs in Sydney don black armbands and hold a minutes silence prior to their weekend matches. His son's untimely death hit his father hard.

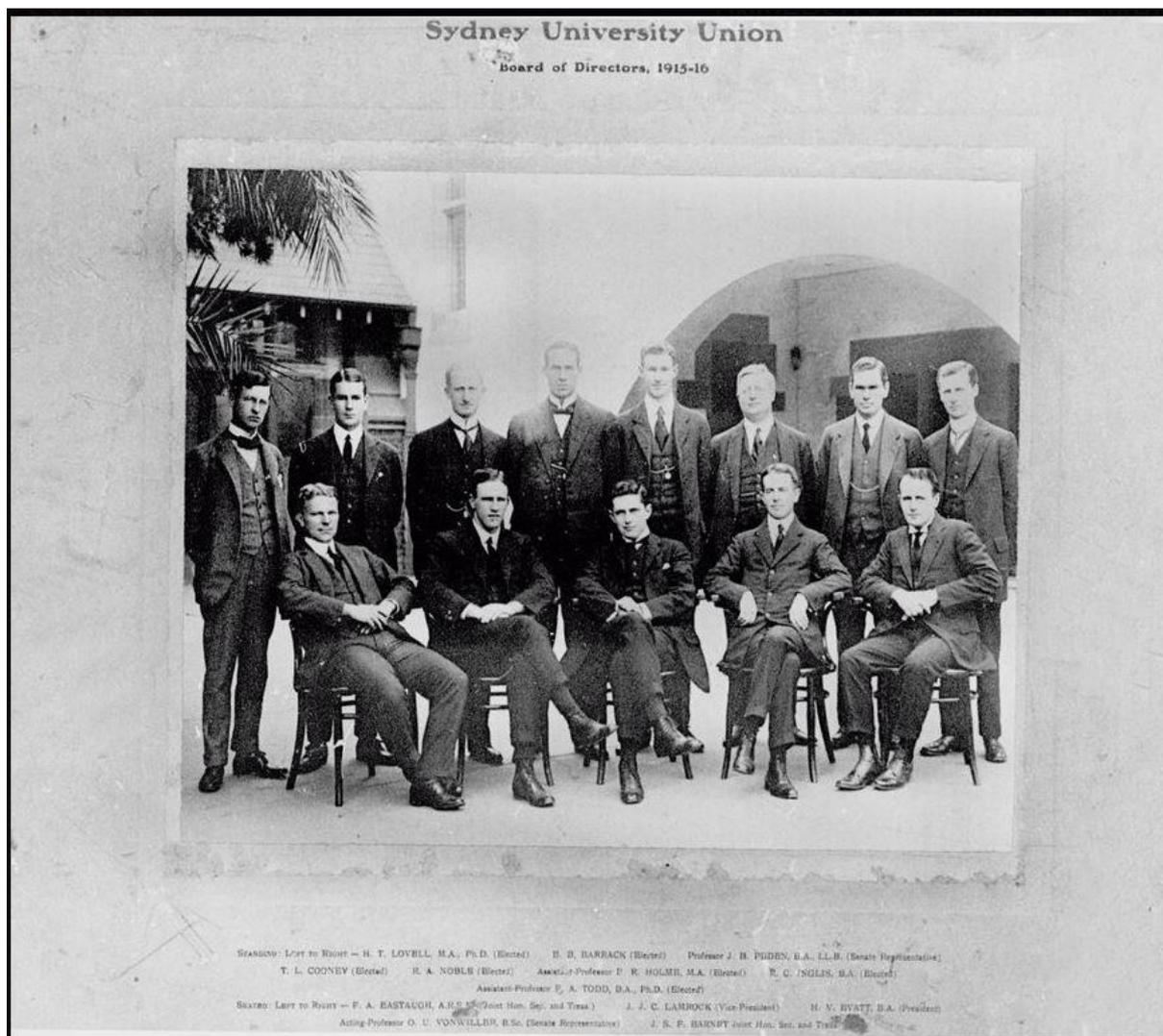
Frederick Eastaugh received a Commission in the AIF early in WW1, but was not allowed to go on military service overseas as he was deemed to have a restricted occupation. His first war duty was approving chemical composition of all steel for shell work. After a year, he left Australia as one of a draft of scientific workers who returned to England to

support the war effort. On arrival in Britain he was allocated to H.M. Factory Gretna, where he became a Section Manger and was occupied in the various stages of gun-cotton drying, dehydration and solvent recovery. He remained there until the Armistice.

When he returned from England in 1919 he instituted the course of Engineering Technology at the University, and held the chair in it. He was promoted from to Professor and eventually to Head of Chemical Engineering.

As well as working at the University, Eastaugh often helped Australian Government departments, including the CSIRO, by producing various reports and papers and giving lectures. It was not uncommon for him to be a technical witness in the courtroom on criminal and civil cases. In one of his 1930 papers he stated that thought it was possible to obtain fuel and gas products from coal processing, but to him it seemed an unnecessary and expensive process and advised against it. (The costs have now come down, so we have the coal seam gas products of today).

He was an active member of the Sydney University Union as well as the Hockey Club. He is sitting on the extreme left in this photo of the Union board for 1915-16, which is one of the few photos of him.



(Photo courtesy of the Sydney University archives reference G3\_224\_1846)

He was also an active member of the University Glee Club and could hold a decent tune. He was regarded by many of his peers as a having great knowledge of metallurgy and a great capacity as a teacher and lecturer.

## Frederick Eastaugh's Hockey Career

Hockey was just starting in Sydney when Eastaugh arrived in early 1907. The first men's clubs Corinthians (1905) and Sydney University (1906) had only just been formed. The NSWHA was not created until a few months later, in May 1907. (Details about the beginnings of the NSWHA can be found in the paper called "Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and our Club" on the SUHC website). For hockey and SUHC he seemed to be the right man in the right place at the right time.

Within weeks of his arrival he formed the Barbarians Hockey club with the help of Professor White & A.G. Purves, both from Sydney University. This was most likely done because the University staff at that time were not eligible to play for the University team, which consisted almost entirely of undergraduate. When the SUSU officially recognised the hockey club as an affiliated member of the sports union in 1909, both Eastaugh & Professor White were founding committee members. All three however continued to play for the Barbarians club at a time when sport was devoutly an amateur sport: players played solely for the sake of playing. There were no prizes or trophies, and many people gladly played in different teams and clubs at the same time.

Frederick Eastaugh was president of the SUHC from 1909 to 1915, when the club went into "Abeyance" during WW1. When he arrived back from England in 1919 he became president again and remained involved from 1920 to at least 1936, when the university & hockey club records become rather "blurry" No-one in either the men's or women's club has ever come close to his astonishing record of holding an executive position for at least 25 years. (Currently no details exist of the club's executives for the years 1907-8 and 1936 to 1948, so his record may be even greater).

**1907:** Eastaugh played for the Barbarians team and was selected as fullback in the NSW team for the game against the British fleet. NSW won 3 goals to one. Also selected for that match were Professor White and Mr Purves, the patron and coach of the University team at the time.

Eastaugh also wrote a regular hockey column in the Arrow newspaper under the name "By F.E." In one such article he ponders if he would switch clubs to play for the varsity team, if rules were to allow it. His weekly columns gave good insights into the various clubs and players of the time. Other newspaper reports mention that he was a good player and that his vast knowledge of the game meant he umpired numerous games during the season. At this point he opened his doors after Wednesday lectures to anyone – including players from any club, and women - who wanted to learn about the game of hockey, particularly the rules.

**1908:** Eastaugh continued to play for the Barbarians and umpired regularly, and was now also coach of the University Club. His midweek lectures continued to grow and in some cases to whole teams, these included the Barbarians, Bandits and the newly formed University women's team.

He was a great supporter of amateur sport. He openly encouraged women to take up hockey and regularly coached/umpired and gave guidance to the newly formed Women's club. This was noteworthy because the Sydney University Sports Union was a male organisation frowned on this and refused to allow women to train or play on university grounds. This was partly why the University's first sportswomen were called "the Newtown tarts". They were tarts because their skirts were often 6 inches above the ground and they were from Newtown because the only field they could use was near the Newtown garbage tip. The 1910 Sydney University Women's IV team in Adelaide was even accosted by the local police when their ankles showed as they crossed a public roadway between the change rooms and the playing ground!

Eastaugh was again selected for NSW to play against Victoria (his first interstate match). He was selected as a reserve but played in the starting team in the 1-1 draw and was nominated as one of the best players. While in Victoria he even played for SUHC when he was in a "university past & present" team that also played Victoria. Varsity won 3-2. He was an umpire for the return NSW v Victoria game a few days later.

**1909 to 1913:** During this period Eastaugh continued to play for the Barbarians/Bandits clubs and NSW and to umpire (a more common term by now than referee) men's and women's interstate, intervarsity and club games. Most commentators still derided women's sport, and the bold women hockey players in particular, so he must have had a strong commitment to women's rights and/or a very thick skin.

**1914:** In 1914 Eastaugh was chosen to umpire the first two women's international hockey matches ever played in Australia. They were played between NSW and a visiting team from England, and were organised in conjunction with the NSW women's state carnival at Rushcutters Bay in Sydney. After the carnival the players (good naturedly) presented both Eastaugh and the other umpire, a Mr Redgrave, with walking sticks.

## Frederick Eastaugh's Post-War Contributions

On returning from England in 1920 Professor Eastaugh spent more time on his growing family and on a mania for smacking an even smaller white ball around the turf: golf. His wife even played off a handicap of 16. He maintained his interest in Hockey but more as an administrator than as a player or umpire. He remained as president of SUHC (the men's club) until at least 1936, making a stretch of some 25 years as president.

His interest with women's sport continued and included cricket as well as hockey. Attached is a 1934 score card from an early match by the Sydney University women's team v Staff. Eastaugh did not have a good day with the bat, but showed some form with the ball, even bowling Molly Dive! Seven "batsmen" for the women's team (Margaret Pedan, Joan Humphries, Molly Dive, Grace Johnstone, Barbara Pedan, Elizabeth Pope & Silva Taylor ) all played Hockey for the Sydney University Women's Hockey Club as well. Many earned Blues, and some even played for NSW and Australia.

1934, p239). The match was held at the oval on Wednesday 3 October 1934. The staff won the encounter, with scorecard provided below:

*University Staff*

A. B. Powe, b. Dive	16
H. Richardson, lb.w., b. Pope	0
F. Eastaugh, b. Pope	0
W. Selle, b. Pope	7
H. Surton, b. B. Peden	32
T. Osborn, b. Johnston	5
G. Dale, c. and b. M. Peden	28
R. Mills, b. Johnston	2
H. Black, lb.w., b. Pope	25
J. Crawford, b. Pope	31
I. Ross, not out	26
Sundries	6
Total	178

Bowling: Pope, 5 for 29; Johnston, 2 for 25; Dive, 1 for 56; B. Peden, 1 for 32; M. Peden, 1 for 30.

*Women's Team*

M. Peden, b. Selle	2
J. Humphreys, b. Powe	7
M. Dive, b. Eastaugh	2
G. Johnstone, b. Mills	5
B. Peden, b. Mills	8
E. Pope, run out	20
K. Cummins, b. Eastaugh	24
B. Le Gay Brereton, b. Dale	3
S. Taylor, b. Richardson	8
L. Lo Schiavo, c. and b. Powe	9
T. Thomas, not out	0
Sundries	15
Total	103

Bowling: Selle 1 for 11; Eastaugh, 2 for 11; Powe, 2 for 15; Richardson, 1 for 10; Black, 0 for 12; Mills, 2 for 10; Crawford, 0 for 8; Dale, 1 for 9.

Source: *Union Recorder* 27 September 1934, p239

Records for other clubs and societies from the time are often even worse than ours, but we do know of the following other roles that Eastaugh took on for the sake of those around him:

- VP of SU Tennis Club – 1908
- President SU Hockey Club – 1909 -1915 (then, post WW1) 1920 - 1936
- Council member of the Sydney University Engineers Society 1909 - 1917
- Vice President of the University Science Society 1909 - 1917
- Founded the Eastaugh Prize for Engineering (Assaying) 1910 – 1921??
- President of University Glee/Musical club – 1911, 1912, 1914, 1927
- Vice President of University Glee Club – 1913, 1915, 1916, 1917
- Hon treasurer Sydney University Union – 1915, 1916
- Director Sydney University Union, -1916, 1932, 1933, and 1934
- Committee member Sydney University Golf Club – 1915,

Eastaugh continued to be involved with the SUSU and was president from 1945 to 48, and was a strong advocate of the compulsory sports union fee. He retired from university life in 1948 but then in 1949 he joined Commonwealth Industrial Gases (now BOC) as head of research in the welding field.

Attached below is an interesting letter he wrote in 1958 making fun of himself and deriding the new craze called television.

12/16  
Mr Fisher  
The Smithy  
Brent Eligh  
12/18/58

Dear Miss Telfer.

Once again - and I don't care how often it happens - I want to thank the Senate for an act of generosity.

This means that perhaps I can have a new suit - the first since 1950 but I certainly won't join the new illiterate by installing a television set.

Yours sincerely,  
F. Eastaugh

(Photo courtesy of the Sydney University archives reference G3/187)

Eastaugh returned to England after retiring from CIG and died there in July 1969.

This was an extraordinary man who crossed the world with his new wife in 1907 to start a new career and a new life, and then dedicated himself to men's and women's hockey for decades. The sport and our club would be much weaker - if we survived at all - without his efforts. Frederick Eastaugh is a man to be honoured by all past, present & future players.

BR